

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Submitted with the present response is an annotated version of replacement Figure 4 previously submitted in the Office Action.

Claims 16-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13 are canceled by the present response without prejudice and new claims 14-22 are submitted. Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the publication "Logic Programming with the World-Wide Web" to Loke et al. (herein "Loke").

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, that rejection is obviated by the present response as claims 1-13 are canceled by the present response. Further, new claims 14-22 are believed to be fully supported by the originally specification. Applicants also note that the specification is amended by the present response to make clarifications in pages 8 and 9.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Loke, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

New independent claim 14 is directed to a method for automatically forming a document link that links a portion of a first document with a portion of a second document. The method describes at least two characteristics of portions of respective documents using an Atom predicate expression. At least one link establishing condition configured to specify portions of first and second documents to be linked is described using a Horn clause predicate expression including the Atom predicate. The at least one link establishing condition is registered in a file. A prescribed program configured to calculate the at least one link establishing condition is then run while referring to the file. Further, at least one document

link between the at least one pair of the portion of the first and second documents, specified by the program, is formed. The other independent claims 17 and 20 recite similar features.

In the claims as currently written the link provided between a linkage source and a destination are portions of documents, and not an entire document. That feature appears to differ from the teachings in Loke which appears directed to linking entire documents.

Moreover, as recited in the claims an Atom predicate expression is used to represent characteristics of a plurality of portions of documents. With such a feature, once such an expression is written, a plurality of portions of documents can be specified to be linked. Specifically, the Atom predicate expression can specify a linking source and destination not only in a one-to-one manner, but also in a plural-to-plural manner. Such a feature provides a more efficient linking than only linking in a one-to-one manner.

Applicants respectfully submit Loke does not disclose such an Atom predicate linking.

Further, as recited in the claims the “description of the link establishing condition” is registered in a file. Such a feature is believed also to be neither taught nor suggested by Loke. In particular, Loke simply teaches by “demo (M,T #> G):- T=m_id(URL)” that a query is given to and a prescribed response therefrom is obtained from an assembly of Horn clauses of electronic documents, included in a memory of prolog.

In such ways, Loke does not include a file having a registration of a link establishing condition using a Horn clause expression. As for the Horn clause itself, Loke includes an assembly of those only in a memory of prologs.

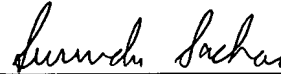
In such ways, new claims 14-22 recite features neither taught nor suggested by Loke. Thus, new claims 14-22 are believed to distinguish over the teachings on Loke.

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Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2005.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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